Position Title: Assistant Professor—Plant Breeder Specialty and Organic Crops (100% Research)

Appointment: This is a 12-month, non-tenure-track research faculty appointment Texas A&M AgriLife Research-Vernon; academic appointment with the Soil and Crop Sciences Department at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Exempt Status: Exempt

Pay Grade: Commensurate with qualifications and experience

General Duties and Responsibilities: Potential specialty crops include chickpeas, edible dry beans and peas, lentils and guar. Potential organic crops include specialty crops and row crops. The AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Vernon, part of the Texas A&M System, is seeking an outstanding scientist specializing in Plant Breeding (100% research) focused on developing cultivars of specialty crops and organic crops to join a multi-disciplinary research center, with faculty expertise in cropping systems, plant physiology, breeding, geospatial hydrology, soil sciences, ag economics and other disciplines.

Research should focus on the genetic and physiological basis of desirable traits for human nutrition and quality, while also developing cultivars acclimated to environmental factors including water deficit, salinity, temperature extremes or disease resistance. This individual should be an inter-disciplinary scientist who can use multiple approaches including UAS imaging technologies, genomics, genetics, and gene editing for crop improvement.

Required Qualifications and Experience: The applicant will have an earned Ph.D., at time of appointment, in plant breeding, genetics, or physiology and have experience with the latest advances in plant genomics, breeding techniques, and marker assisted selection platforms. This position requires coordinating research on complex biological problems, effective management of technical support staff, strong written and oral communication skills, and a desire to push the scientific envelope. The selected individual will be expected to develop and implement a successful research program, build collaborations, obtain external research funding, publish results in peer reviewed journals, recognize intellectual property, and release cultivars.

Preferred Experience: Post-doctoral research experience in Plant Breeding or Genetics appropriate to developing new cultivars is preferred. UAS and remote sensing knowledge and skills are desirable.

Facilities: Excellent research facilities exist at both Vernon and College Station. The Vernon Center maintains the necessary field locations, UAS equipment, field equipment, irrigation, green house, color seed sorter, and seed treater https://vernon.tamu.edu/. College Station centers of excellence include the Genomics & Bioinformatics Service Lab https://www.txgen.tamu.edu/, the Gene Editing Lab https://agrilife.org/cgel/, and the Multicrop Transformation Lab https://twiggy.txgen.tamu.edu/crop/.

Agency Description: Texas A&M AgriLife Research, an agency of the Texas A&M University System, has 400 scientific FTEs (1,300 total employees) on the Texas A&M University campus and at 13 regional Research and Extension Centers throughout the state.

Location and Area Served: Texas A&M AgriLife Research at Vernon, TX. Primarily serving the Texas Rolling Plains and Southern Great Plains; also partnering with scientists in other universities, agencies, neighboring states and region as appropriate.

Administrative Relationships: The scientist will report to the Center Director at Texas A&M AgriLife Research-Vernon, who will conduct an annual performance evaluation with participation by the Head of the Soil and Crop Sciences Department at Texas A&M University, College Station. Budgets, facilities, and operations for the program are administered by the Center Director. Promotion decisions are the joint responsibility of the Center Director; the Head of TAMU Soil & Crop Sciences Department; and the Director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research; and will conform to the policies and procedures of the agency, the Department, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for the Texas A&M University System.

Closing Date for Applications: October 15, 2019 or until filled. Date Position is Available: January 2, 2020.

Application Process: Apply online at https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/TAMU_External/job/Vernon-AL-RSCH/Assistant-Professor-R-022955-1 Questions should be directed to: Dr. Richard Vierling, Center Director (richard.vierling@ag.tamu.edu). Phone: 940-552-9941 ext. 229; Cell: 314-308-5404.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disability Employer.